

**REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2004**

**Members Present:** Robert K. Pagani-Chairman, Robert J. Clements, Vaughn E. Gerber, Mark A. Joyse, Barry C. Pinto, John Rachek

**Others Present:** C. Pippin-Chief CLFD, D. Wright and various members of CLFD, M. Varney-Chief EVFD, J. Turner-EVFD, M. Stupinski, P. Charter-Selectmen, J. Strieber-Pres EVAC, T. Shook-EVAC, residents.

Chairman Robert Pagani opened the meeting at 8:15 pm.

**Citizen's Forum**

P. Miller, 14 E. Shore Road spoke on behalf of the Crystal Lake Water Monitoring line item in the budget that was cut last year. She stated that the monitoring should continue. The budget amount was \$3,000 which she felt was a minor amount compared to the amount it would cost to remediate the lake if it should become contaminated. The Health Department tests for swimming, not the health of the lake. It is a vital recreation area for the Town and these activities affect the water quality. She feels the Town should be proactive rather than reactive.

Mr. Pagani stated that this line item was funded on a 50/50 basis in the beginning but as the Crystal Lake Assoc. membership has dwindled, the funding provided by the residents has become less. Mrs. Miller stated that she did not want the town to be penny wise and dollar foolish.

**Approval of Minutes of Regular meeting of November 9, 2004**

**MOTION (RACHEK) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2004 AS WRITTEN. GERBER ABSTAINED.**

**Financial Statements**

Mr. Pagani stated that the Finance Officer has returned to work on a part time basis but is working on the audit at this time.

**New Business**

Crystal Lake Fire Department Engine Tanker

Dave Wright, 34 Crystal Ridge Rd and a member of the Crystal Lake Fire Department told the Board that they had received 9 bids for the tanker. The prices ranged from \$415,000 to \$341,000. The members went to the various manufacturers and reviewed the apparatus. When they had decided which they preferred, they sat down with the manufacturing and reduced the

bid price to \$335,000. At this time they are asking for the Board's approval for a lease/purchase of the apparatus. If the Board approves the purchase now, the first payment will not be made for about 9 months while the equipment is being manufactured. There is also an option not to begin making payments for a year after delivery of the vehicle if desired.

Mr. Rachek asked if the vehicle meets their needs. Mr. Wright answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Clements asked is it was automatic, 2,000 gal and a 6 man cab. Mr. Wright stated it was a Class A pumper, it fits in the firehouse and has a 30 year life span. He also stated that they will receive 10 years of PMI which is an inspection required by the State. The interest rate would also be locked in for the entire lease.

M. Stupinski, 6 Raspberry Lane, stated that the Crystal Lake Fire Dept. has worked hard on this and that there is a clear cut need for this apparatus. It is a good deal for the town and he recommends approval of the purchase.

P. Miller, 14 E. Shore Rd stated her approval of the purchase due to the growth in the Crystal Lake area of town.

E. Boothroyd, Hare Rd, stated that this truck's engine is not manufactured any more and that it would require a lot of money to replace the engine or its parts. He recommends the purchase. He stated that the department should advertise the old truck for sale on the internet.

Mr. Joyse asked about the 6-man cab. Mr. Wright stated that they average 6-7 men for a daytime call. He was asked about other equipment that may need replacement in the next 5 years or so, and he stated that there are two pieces that they will be proposing to replace with one in the next 3-5 years.

Mr. Clements stated that he supports the purchase and feels that the way they are doing it is money well spent.

Mr. Rachek stated that the fire departments should coordinate with each other for the use of equipment. Mr. Wright stated that the two departments are so different, being that the Center Fire Dept has fire hydrants to work with and Crystal Lake does not.

Mr. Pinto felt that the research they did was very thorough and that leasing the equipment is the least painful for the Town.

Mr. Pagani stated that this item was deleted from the budget last budget season and it looks attractive but it is still a commitment to the Town. He stated it feels like they are coming in the back door and he is not in favor of it. He feels it should be discussed at this year's budget deliberation. He feels that they would be setting a precedent and opening the gates for every other rejected capital item to come back during the year for funding.

Mr. Clements pointed out that the actual funding would not be required of the town until the next budget year.

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (GERBER) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE LEASE/PURCHASE OPTION 5 FROM 4-GUYS AT A COST OF \$335,000 FOR A TERM OF 5 YEARS WITH FIRST PAYMENT DATE OF 8/15/05, NET EFFECTIVE RATE 4.39%, LEASE RATE OF 4.61%, WITH YEARLY PAYMENTS OF \$75,010.09 AND TOTAL LEASE PAYMENTS OF \$375,050.44 AND TO SEND TO TOWN MEETING. MR. PAGANI VOTED NAY**

**MOTION (RACHEK) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED TO ADD TO NEW BUSINESS EVAC REQUEST-REPLACEMENT OF AED'S.**

### **Emergency Services Evaluation Committee**

The First Selectman has requested that two members from the Board of Finance be appointed to a subcommittee to begin implementation of the emergency services evaluation. Mr. Joyse and Mr. Clements volunteered to represent the Board of Finance on this committee.

### **Budget Guidelines**

Mr. Pagani read into the minutes his budget guidelines outlining a 1% increase. Mr. Rachek asked how to enforce the guidelines and Mr. Pagani stated that the budget cuts are the Board's enforcement. The members supported the 1% increase and it was agreed that if the original budget comes in more reasonably than last year, the taxpayers may realize that the Board is serious about controlling spending.

### **EVAC – Request to Replace AED's.**

The Board of Selectmen has forwarded a request to approve the funding of replacement of AED's through the ambulance corps charging fund. Mr. Terry Shook stated that the existing aed's were recalled, the company went out of business and there is no recourse at this time. There are eight units in Town. A company called Medtronic has agreed to replace each for \$1,500 along with two that are carried in the ambulances that will be replaced because they do not have pediatric capability. The department has sent a letter to the Attorney General and feels this may become a large class action suit against the original manufacturer due to the fact that many public safety agencies purchased these units from them.

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (RACHEK) AND PASSED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF AED'S BY THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS FROM THEIR CHARGING FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,700.**

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:10 PM.**

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Smith, Clerk